Appl. No. 09/838,782
Reply Filed: November 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: July 17, 2006

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action of July 17, 2006, the Applicant submits this Reply. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-14 remain in this application, of which claims 1, 7 and 10 are independent. No fee is due for claims for this amendment.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 13-15 of which claims 1 and 7 are independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of U.S. Patent 5,659,793 ("Escobar"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to Escobar, an editing system has a user interface that includes "[t]ime lines 140, 141, 150, 151 and 160 [which] are represented as a plurality of tracks." Col. 6, lines 22-23. "At least two video tracks . . . are preferred." Col. 6, lines 23-24. "At least one interactive object track 160 should be included . . ." Col. 6, lines 26-27. "Separate directories or 'bins' are preferably maintained for video objects, audio objects, text/graphical objects, special effects, program objects and applications." Col. 6, lines 55-58. These assets are stored in "files . . . in industry standard format" such as "open media framework [OMF] format." Col. 7, lines 52-55. Properties for an object in a bin may be specified through a template. See Col. 9, lines 20-45. In the user interface, a "[b]utton 173 invokes application creation or editing functions which permit objects to be assembled into applications with relative timing specified by their placement along the timeline tracks." Col. 6, 37-40. A "[b]utton 172 invokes the editing of objects to permit changes in their properties such as duration." Col. 6, lines 36-37. A "[b]utton 171 . . . permits creation of placeholder objects." Col. 6, lines 32 and 35-36. An asset may have an associated time code that "allows an edit point to be defined as a certain duration from a clearly delineated starting point for asset playback." Col. 8, lines 16-18. Thus, "portions of an asset . . . can be specified in terms of starting and ending time or starting time and duration." Col. 8, lines 19-21.

According to Escobar, to author a program, "[a] user selects one icon for placement on the timeline . . . ." Col. 10, lines 18-19. "The user also selects the timeline track on which the icon is to be placed." Col. 10, lines 19-20. "The user then drags and drops a copy of the icon onto the selected timeline track at the start time desired and makes any adjustment in starting time necessary . . . ." Col. 10, lines 21-23. "[A] pointer to the object identified by the icon is

stored in a linked list for the selected timeline track at a location determined by its start time."
Col. 10, lines 24-26. The linked lists for "all timeline tracks are merged into a single IDL." Col.
10, line 35. "The IDL is essentially as ASCII text file and can be read and edited as such." Col.
10, lines 46-47. In particular, "when it is desired to edit interactive multimedia applications
represented as IDLs, simple text editing of the text file is all that is required.. . . This involves
reading the IDL into a text editor, . . . adding, deleting or modifying . . . the text, iterating . . . as
necessary and storing the revised IDL. . .. The simplicity of the editing process also permits very
easy refreshment of interactive multimedia applications." Col. 10, lines 47-55.

Regarding claim 1, in the Office Action it is asserted that Escobar teaches the claimed
"means for allowing a user to place interactive content on the at least one interactive track
according to a selection of whether the interactive content is associated with either a point in
time with a locator object or a duration with a source clip object on the at least one interactive
track." The Office Action compares this limitation to Escobar, col. 8, lines 15-21 and col. 6,
lines 30-41, noted above. The cited portions of Escobar indicate that a. "editing functions . . .
permit objects to be assembled into applications *with relative timing specified by their placement
along the timeline tracks*" (Col. 6, lines 37-40) and b. "portions of an asset . . . can be specified
in terms of *starting and ending time or starting time and duration*" (Col. 8, lines 19-21). Thus,
in the excerpts referenced by the Office Action, Escobar teaches that an interactive object has a
duration, specified either by a starting time and a duration or by starting and ending times.

This application of Escobar to the claims does not address the limitation that placement
of interactive content on an interactive track is made according to a selection of whether "the
interactive content is placed on the at least one interactive track either at a *single* point in time
with a locator object . . . or *at a point in time with* a duration with a source clip object," as recited
in claim 1. Claim 1 was also previously amended to clarify the distinction between a locator
object and a source clip object (based on page 8, lines 23-26 of the specification), by reciting that
"a locator object *is an object that is attached to a source clip object in the timeline* at a specified
single point in time on the clip." The cited portions of Escobar fail to teach these distinctions
between a locator object and a source clip object that are recited in claim 1.

Regarding claim 7, Escobar permits the properties of an object in a bin to be edited through a properties template which is invoked by selecting the object in the bin. Escobar does not teach that these properties are updated by accessing the interactive content in response to a user invoking a refresh operation. Claim 7 was previously amended to clarify this distinction. In particular, the "interactive content is represented by an object in the bin, wherein the object is associated with a unique reference to the interactive content, and wherein information describing the interactive content is stored as an attribute of the object," and "the information describing the interactive content stored as an attribute of the object in the bin [is updated] *by accessing the interactive content* using the unique reference in response to the user invoking a refresh operation." Escobar fails to teach these limitations.

The Office Action asserts that Col. 10, lines 37-55 teaches these limitations. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Escobar teaches that an IDL representing the multimedia presentation is a text file that may be edited. The IDL is a text file that combines all the linked lists representing each track of the multimedia presentation. While Escobar teaches that objects properties for an object in a bin may be specified through a template (Col. 9, lines 20-45), it does not teach that these properties are updated "*by accessing the interactive content* using the unique reference in response to the user invoking a refresh operation," as claimed. The possibility of editing an IDL (as described in Escobar in Col. 10) has nothing to do with updating properties of objects in a bin or this claim limitation.

Accordingly the rejection of independent claims 1 and 7 is traversed. The remaining claims 2-5, 8-9 and 13-14 (as well as 6, discussed below) are dependent claims that are allowable for at least similar reasons.

In addition, dependent claim 2 includes limitations similar to claim 7 and is allowable for at least similar reasons.

Rejection of Claims 6 and 10-12 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6 and 10-12, of which claim 10 is independent, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of Escobar and U.S. Patent 6,324,335 ("Kanda"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Escobar is discussed above.

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The Office Action states that Escobar "does not explicitly teach a specification of size and spatial position of the video relative to the information to be displayed in the display, or means for accessing the specification of the size and spatial position of the video for the interactive content corresponding to a point in time in the program." See Office Action, page 10, lines 10-13.

The Office Action also states that Escobar "does not explicitly teach a means for displaying the video and the display information of the interactive content according to the specification of the size and spatial position of the video relative to the information to be displayed in the display and the point in time in the program." See Office Action, page 10, lines 16-19.

According to Kanda, referring to Figs. 3 and 6, "first management record data" is used to manage all of the clipped image data displayed in the displaying areas 28, 29 and 30 of Fig. 3, reproduced below. See Col. 17, lines 5-17. This data includes the "horizontal size of the display for one page," which is the maximum number of images displayed horizontally for each track 28, 29 and 30, the "vertical size of the display for one page," which is the maximum number of displayed tracks, and "the display position on the screen," which is the relative placement of the displayed tracks 28, 29 and 30.
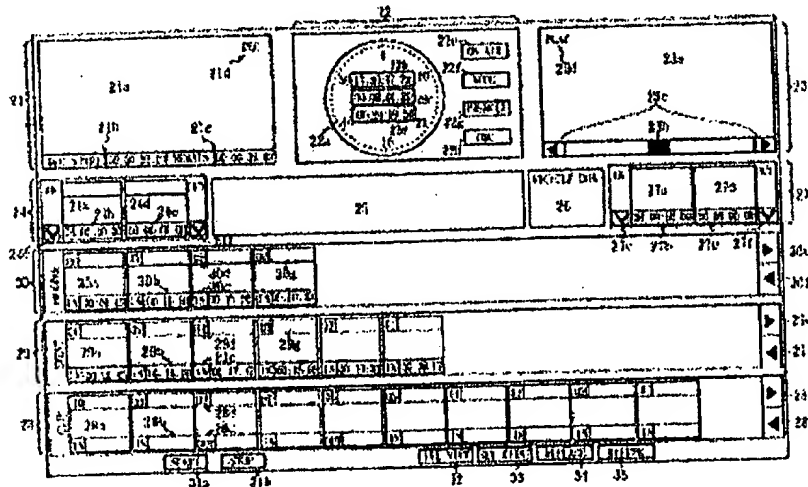

FIG. 3

Assuming, for the sake of argument, that Kanda would have been combined with Escobar, the claims as amended distinguish from the proposed combination of Escobar and Kanda.

In particular, claim 10 recites that *"interactive content includes display information* indicating information to be displayed in a display with the video from the at least one track for video, *and a specification of size and spatial position* of the video relative to the information to be displayed in the display". Claim 10 also recites a "means for playing back the program specified by the timeline interface including: means for accessing the specification of the size and spatial position of the video for the interactive content corresponding to a point in time in the program; and means for displaying the video and the display information of the interactive content according to the specification of the size and spatial position of the video relative to the information to be displayed in the display and the point in time in the program."

Dependent claim 6 has similar limitations.

The proposed combination of Escobar and Kanda does not teach these limitations. In particular, the data described by Kanda is associated with the timelines, not the interactive content; the data described by Kanda relates to the presentation of the timelines in the user interface, not the playback of video and interactive content in the multimedia presentation.

Accordingly the rejection of independent claim 10 is traversed. The remaining claims 11 and 12 are dependent claims that are allowable for at least similar reasons.

With respect to claim 6, claim 6 is allowable at least for similar reasons as claim 1 from which it depends. In addition, claim 6 has limitations similar to claim 10 and is allowable for at least similar reasons.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this reply, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any fee to **Deposit Account No. 50-0876.**

Respectfully submitted,

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